FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE FOREST SERVICE

History Line

To: History Coordinators
Forest Service Personnel

1680
Summer 1986

FOREST FIRE ALARM, CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA, ABOUT 1925.
(Forest Service photo).

Washington Office History Projects

CURRENT PROJECTS

A History of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Forest Service by William Honey et al. Publication in mid-1986.

A History of the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service by Thomas Alexander. Publication planned in late 1986.

A History of the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service by Intaglio, Inc., headed by Professor Henry Dethloff of Texas A&M University history department. Publication planned in 1987.

A History of the Eastern Region of the Forest Service, by American Resources Group. Publication planned in 1988.

PUBLICATIONS ISSUED

Recreation Site Planning and Improvement in National Forests, 1891-1942 by William C. Tweed, 1980, out of print.

History of White Pine Blister Rust Control: A Personal Account by Warren V. Benedict, 1981, out of print.

Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire by Stephen J. Pyne, Princeton University Press, 1982.

The Forest Service Timber Appraisal System: A Historical Perspective 1891-1981 by Alfred Wiener, 1982.

Radio for the Fireline: A History of Electronic Communication in the Forest Service, 1905-1975 by Gary C. Gray, 1982, out of print.

The Gisborne Era of Forest Fire Research: Legacy of Pioneer by Charles Hardy, 1983, out of print.

Mountaineers and Rangers: A History of Federal Forest Management in the Southern Appalachians, 1900-1981 by Shelley Smith-Mastran and Nan Lowerre, 1983, out of print.

The Wilderness Movement and the National Forests, 1964-1980 by Dennis M. Roth, 1984, out of print.

American Forestry: A History of National, State and Private Cooperation by William G. Robbins, University of Nebraska Press, 1985.

U.S. Forest Service Grazing and Rangelands: A History by William D. Rowley, Texas A&M University Press, 1985.

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NORTHERN REGION

Montana's Early-Day Rangers by Robert C. (Bert) Gildart has been published in paperback by Montana Magazine. The book has 144 pages and many Forest Service photographs. It includes both Forest Service and Park Service rangers. It may be ordered from the magazine at P.O. Box 5630, Helena, MT 59604, at $7.95 plus $1.00 postage.

A historical novel on the early Forest Service on the Old Cabinet National Forest in Montana is being written by Emily J. Harswill of Seattle.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

The History Section will soon let a contract for a regional history. Preparations are underway for some commemorative ceremonies for the centenary of the first federal forest reserves in 1991, and possibly a history conference, according to Steve Sigstad, regional cultural resource officer. The supervisors of the Shoshone, Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests are coordinating plans. Publication of an "Overview of Cultural History in the High Plains," by Dr. James Gunnison of the University of Nebraska Museum is planned. The work has been completed and is being edited. It is a joint effort by Regions 2 and 3, Forest Service, and the New Mexico and Colorado offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

A brief history of the Gunnison National Forest has been written by Bill Kerr.

SOUTHWESTERN REGION

The Region plans to submit a thematic nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for all of the 120 standing lookout stations, many of which are still being used, according to David Gillio, cultural resource officer and history coordinator. It is also planned to publish a history of logging railroads in the Region, written by Vernon Glover. The first draft of the Region 3 history is now complete and work has begun on the revision. There are 18 chapters. The Region's historical display, which has been shown at the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, has been taken down and stored.

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

The Dixie National Forest is completing its history and plans to publish it this year, Jerry Wylie, regional cultural resource head, announced. He presented a paper on Chinese opium pipes and paraphernalia with Richard Fike of the BLM Utah office, at a meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Sacramento, CA. The artifacts came from private collections and various sites in the West, including a few National Forest sites.

The Region 4 history has been completed and will be published soon.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

A Historical Overview of Los Padres National Forest has been completed and is being published by the Los Padres Interpretive Association. It will sell for approximately $8.00. It was compiled by E. R. (Jim) Blakley, a naturalist and historian of the Santa Barbara backcountry, and Karen Barnette, cultural resources specialist of the forest. The book has 161 pages. The history goes back to the Spanish and Mexican periods. It notes the long history of fires in the brushy areas and points out that prescribed fire is now used to reduce the buildup of fuel and thus prevent devastating

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fires. Los Padres is principally a watershed protection forest, and recreation has become a dominant use, especially "car camping." The forest has 100 producing oil wells, but little mining activity. Timber harvesting is minor. There are several wildernesses. The forest has a good number of cultural sites from the Indian period, among which are examples of rock art. There are numerous private inholdings, some dating from Mexican land grants. The authors say that the overview "should give current and future generations of Los Padres users a sense of the rich heritage of the forest." The forest has also produced a publication entitled "Los Padres National Forest...an Introduction" for orienting its employees.

Mark Thornton is completing a study of standing and partially standing lookout stations in Region 5 that have historical significance.

Don Miller, cultural resources officer and History Coordinator for the region, has resigned. Sonia Tamez has taken his place.

The Eldorado National Forest recently completed editing the first volume of the diaries of Milton Morris, one of the Forest's first district rangers. The diaries span a period from 1914 through 1933. The second volume is in the process of being edited; it will be from 1933 to 1950, when he retired. The Forest intends to publish the edited diaries. A display of historic books, artifacts, etc., related to the Forest Service is mostly complete. It is located at the Supervisor's office on Forni Road.

The Modoc National Forest has had a student volunteer/internship program since 1978. Prior to 1984 this program was offered exclusively to archaeology students. In 1984 the program was expanded to include a history student. To date the history program has resulted in the establishment of a forest history archive and the beginning of a multi-year joint project with the Modoc County Historical Society to inventory the historical and archaeological resources of the High Grade Mining District in northeastern California.

Part of the cultural resources inventory of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area now underway includes inventorying the historical resources of the region.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

Oral histories have been made with former Regional Foresters Ted Schlapfer and Dick Worthington, and one is planned with Rex Resler, Paul Hanson, history coordinator, disclosed. The interviews were conducted by Linda Dodds, a professional historian of Portland. They have been edited and transcribed.

Dale Farley, regional cultural resources officer, has retired.

Albert Arnst, retired forester, has published an illustrated booklet, "We Climbed the Highest Mountains," describing the 1933-35 fire detection planning project which he directed. The project included panoramic photos taken from lookout stations which showed the vista from each as well as blind spots and duplicate coverage. The objective was to determine the speed of attack required to hold burned acreage to a minimum. Two of the original cameras have been recently located and will be put into working condition.

Allen Gibbs, public affairs officer and historian, Okanogan National Forest, and Jerry Williams, sociologist and historian, Umpqua National Forest, presented papers at meetings of the Pacific Northwest History Association and the Pacific Northwest Oral History Association, April 24-26, at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Gibbs spoke on the Civilian Conservation

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Corps in Okanogan County, based on 19 oral history interviews he has conducted. Williams spoke on oral history as a part of an overall history program.

SOUTHERN REGION

Cultural resource assessments conducted in the Bankhead National Forest in Alabama since the mid-1970's have resulted in the recording of 193 archaeological sites, of which 11 reflect activity in the 19th Century. Findings in remote parts of the Forest in Winston County are of special interest because many citizens remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. They were persecuted by their Confederate neighbors and many fled to the "wilderness" and remained there until the war was over. Three sites produced an early form of china called "pearl ware," imported from England between about 1770 and 1830. Two of 11 historic mills have been located by stone foundations, and two early 19th Century buildings are in or near the Forest, the Pine Torch Church of about 1830 and the Winston jail at Houston, somewhat later.

The National Forests in Florida conducted an archaeological and historical assessment of Rowlett's Sawmill on the Appalachicola National Forest under contract with New World Research, Inc. and it was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Remains recovered of this water-powered sash sawmill, typical of the early 19th Century, included an earthen dam, wooden sills or cofferdams used to provide support for the dam, location of the water wheel that powered the mill, and a linear ditch which may have been used to float lumber to a navigable body of water. The William Rowletts lived at the mill site as early as 1831 through 1845. The Bunch Ground community is the first verified black community to be identified on the Forest. It was short-lived, owing its existence to the strength of character of its leading family, Rufus and Kate Butler, from about 1900 to 1920 when Rufus died. The St. Francis community on the St. Johns River was also short-lived. Its founder, Levi Harris of New York State, acquired several thousand acres in 1875 and began a commercial shipping enterprise based on citrus agriculture and the timber industry. Winter freezes in 1894 and 1895 devastated the young groves, and the community declined rapidly. The commercial center of town was built partly on a prehistoric shell midden dating 3000 years before.

The Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia is one of 15 southern Forests celebrating 50th anniversaries this year. A history slide program has been prepared for the Chattahoochee, to be shown to employees, retirees, and the public. Events for the celebration are an art display at Quinlan Art Center, Gainesville, July 6-25, a fair at Brasstown Bald on July 7, a symposium at Gainesville Junior College on July 8, Open House at the supervisor's office in Gainesville on July 10, and Retirees' Day in the supervisor's office and at Lake Winfield Scott on July 11. Tom Fearrington has completed a History of Iron Ore Mining on the Armuchee Ranger District.

The National Forests in Texas office has issued a request for documents, photographs, and other memorabilia since their establishment. The material will be collected and some of it will be displayed in the supervisor's office. The cultural resource program has since March 1985 tested and evaluated five archaeological sites typical of Archaic and Woodland population occupation of the east Texas forests, one of which includes a stone weir for catching fish. Artifacts recovered includes projectile points

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and sherds of a plain, utilitarian sandy-paste pottery type common to eastern and southeastern Texas. The cultural resource management program has just begun a research project to provide data to be used in interpretation of an historic sawmill site. Two former millworkers have been interviewed and source documents have been located at the State archives and other repositories.

Fiscal Year 1985 was a very exciting and productive year for the Cultural Resource Management Program on the Daniel Boone National Forest. Surveying and testing of sites continued throughout the year. Three prehistorically utilized rockshelters were tested in McCreary County on the Stearns Ranger District to determine their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. While none of them were determined to be significant, the testing did yield excellent archaeological data for future work in the area by providing radio carbon dates associated with specific tool types for the Woodland stage of their habitation. The testing also provided data concerning the types of activities which took place at these sites. These included hide and food preparation, bone and wood working, stone tool manufacturing and ceramic production. Inter-site relationships were also examined based primarily upon the similarity of several of the projectile points and the ceramics. It appears that the Tough Tree and Campbell Rockshelters were utilized by the same kinship group, possibly reflecting seasonal (winter vs. summer) occupation of these sites.

Surveys of impact areas involving primarily timber sale units, land exchanges and roads were also made. These surveys added 120 additional sites, both historic and prehistoric, to the site inventory. Portions of the survey work focused on fiscal years 1988, 1989 and 1990 timber sales through the environmental assessment process, particularly on the Berea and London Ranger Districts. This allows cultural resources data to become part of the evaluation process for future timber sales on these districts.

A new twist was added to the program last year. It involved the use of oral interviews to tap local residents' memories concerning past Forest activities. These interviews, conducted by Don Fig, supervisory forest technician, and Gary Knudsen, forest archeologist, provided valuable material concerning the historic resources of the Red River Gorge area. While oriented toward fire history of the area, they also provided data on railroads, settlements, logging, niter mining, farming, schooling, and other activities.

A proposed land exchange with Shamrock Coal Company resulted in the company hiring David Bush of Case Western University to survey 2,700 acres in Clay County on the Redbird Ranger District. This survey located 18 sites, four of which required further excavation. This is the first testing conducted within the county and it has provided some excellent data regarding the early prehistoric occupation of the area during the Archaic and Woodland cultural stages. Radio carbon dates associated with the Woodland stage materials, which were similar to those from the McCreary County excavations, confirm the suggestion that they are from the same cultural affiliation. Materials from the Archaic period have not been fully evaluated, but they should provide good data concerning this stage of prehistory. As a result of this testing, two of these sites are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and further excavations will likely take place.

Another land exchange resulted in the testing by David Bush, of a prehistoric site in Perry County on the

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Redbird Ranger District. This site may provide data concerning the Paleo-Indian occupation of this area. A charcoal sample from the site produced a radio carbon date of 9010 B.C. This is one of the earliest dates directly associated with artifacts from the state. This site is also eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing and it has been recommended for further excavation.

EASTERN REGION

The Region has nominated to the National Register of Historic Places fire lookout towers, CCC camps and Forest Service administrative sites, and developed a memorandum of agreement for handling cultural resources. It also published its first cultural resources publication, Family of the Hills, an oral history of Odie and Florence Bridgeman of Union County, IL, collected and edited by Bonnie J. Krause. It reinterred two Indian burials, one on the Huron-Manistee National Forest and one on the Shawnee National Forest.

Russell L. Kaldenberg became the Regional Archaeologist. He transferred from the Bureau of Land Management. He was the cultural resource program manager for the California Desert District and served two years as the district archaeologist. He is interested in fully integrating cultural resources into the multiple use focus of the Forest Service, closer coordination between the Forest Service and native American peoples, and exposing the program more to the general public.

Mary Wilson recently reported as archaeologist to the Wayne-Hoosier National Forest in Bedford, IN, from a post in Idaho. She has been employed by the Forest Service since 1980.

The Huron National Forest celebrated its 75th anniversary last fall, with speakers, folk musicians, walking tours and historical exhibits, at the Lumbermen's Monument Visitor Center near Tawas City, MI.

The White Mountain National Forest is starting plans for its 75th anniversary.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

After almost 40 years in the U.S. Forest Service in the Northern Region prior to my retirement 24 years ago (I am 85), and moving to Arizona in 1985, we are very grateful to have been on the mailing list to receive History Line regularly. There have been a number of things in it of specific interest to us. We shall be happy to continue to receive History Line.

Victor T. and Alice V. Linthacum
Phoenix, AZ

Keep up the good work you are doing. The USFS sets a good example for all agencies of government in collecting and preserving the sources of its history and in promoting serious research and writing of forest and conservation history.

Elwood R. Maunder
Retired Director of the Forest History Society. Aptos, CA

I hope that we can develop detailed and accurate histories of each of our National Forests and that these histories can be updated at least each ten years. The present practice of clearing out our files each three years has been destructive of preserving accurate records of forest history. While the instructions provide for a forest officer to review the material to be discarded, this is frequently not done because of time pressure. Also, what is important to one forest officer may not be important to another. This is particularly true since we seem to be getting fewer forestry trained

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people in the Forest Service. Frequency of transfer of forest officers destroys the chain of memory of events. It may be desirable to maintain a journal of events, with file references as a basis for the update. In any event, it appears desirable that we provide for accurate Forest histories for each National Forest. I know that my 17 years of continuous service on the Daniel Boone was a great help to me in putting the forest history together.

Robert F. Collins
Forest Supervisor, Retired

Lost my father, C. Otto Lindh, Sept. 3rd, but on his behalf I'd like to keep receiving the History Line. It would be fun as a retired F.S. employee to share some of Dad's stories, i.e.:

1. The 1930 fires in Oregon (my views)
2. An ARF in Fire Control during World War II
3. Some of Dad's letters and those to him, during his years as Regional Forester.
4. And some of my joys of being a F.S. brat.

Ronald C. Lindh
Bend, OR

Please continue sending me History Line. You are doing a superb job.

Douglass Craig
Avondale Estates, GA

FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY

The University of Nebraska Press has announced publication of This Well-Wooded Land: Americans and Their Forests from Colonial Times to the Present. The book was sponsored by the society. General editor and one of four co-authors is Thomas R. Cox, professor of history at San Diego State University and former president of the Forest History Society. The other authors are Robert S. Maxwell, professor emeritus of history at Stephen F. Austin State University; Phillip D. Thomas, dean of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wichita State University; and the late Joseph J. Malone of Washington, D.C., a leading authority on the forest history of Colonial times.

Susan R. Schrepfer, a member of the history faculty at Rutgers University, has won the 1985 biennial book award of the Forest History Society, for The Fight to Save the Redwoods: A History of Environmental Reform.

William G. Robbins, professor of history at Oregon State University, won the Frederick K. Weyerhaeuser Award for best article in the Journal of Forest History during 1984. It was entitled "Federal Forestry Cooperation: the Fernow-Pinchot Years."

Thomas R. Dunlap, professor of history at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, won the Theodore C. Blegen award for the article judged best in forest and conservation history published in a journal other than the Journal of Forest History. It was entitled "Values for Varmints: Predator Control and Environmental Ideas, 1920-1939," published in Pacific Historical Review.

Richard G. Lillard, emeritus professor of English and American studies at Los Angeles State University and author of The Great Forest, a pioneering work in American forest history, is the 1986 president of the Forest History Society. The vice-president is Herbert I. Winer of Dayton, Ohio, manager of Woodland Operations Research for the Mead Corporation.

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